



## NEWS NUGGETS

- The 2016 power season is officially Don't forget to winterize your power equipment!
- Follow these easy steps to ensure your equipment will survive the winter:
- First, change the oil.
- Next check the air filter. Clean or change as needed.
- There are two approaches to winterizing your small engine when dealing with the gasoline left in your fuel tank at the end of the season. One approach is to drain the fuel out of the gas tank and then start and run the engine to get all the fuel out of the fuel lines and carburetor. The other is to add a stabilizer.

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# The Prospector's Quill

VOLUME XLII, ISSUE X

OCTOBER 2016

## GPOC Election Rules & Process

by  
Andrew C. Hawkins

Elections for the 2017 GPOC Board will be held at the October GPOC General Membership meeting in Colorado Springs, CO. The election process began in September, when members were asked to nominate candidates for the 2017 Board. Then, in October, after each position is opened for final nominations, candidates will provide introductions and short statements about

their goals and qualifications for positions.

For members not familiar with the GPOC election process, the process is conducted by the current Trustees assisted by previous Trustees, if not on a ballot. The Trustee positions normally rotate, from Three to Two to One year positions. In response to membership concerns, each GPOC member will be checked for their status, and if in good standing, are given a unique ID number card for the voting pro-

cess. For expediency, the trustees have previously agreed that if a single candidate was on the ballot for a given office, the members would vote by a show of their numbered card, or acclamation.

New GPOC Board Members take office in January 2017—and are "sworn in" at the December General Membership Meeting. This allows a little overlap in the Board for a smooth and efficient transition.



## GPOC @ 2016 Denver Gem and Mineral Show Kids Love Rock Board Game

by  
Andrew C. Hawkins

Each year, the Gold Prospectors of Colorado join the likes of world-renown and local vendors at the annual Denver Gem and Mineral Show at the Denver Mart. GPOC is a cornerstone in the education hall portion of the Show, along with the Colorado Geological Survey, United States Geological Survey, Bureau of Land Management, area mineral clubs, and of course the grab bag stand! The GPOC booth is a hit at the Denver Gem and Mineral show each year where the club spends the entire show weekend demonstrating gold panning. Members greet the public and share tales of gold mining adventures. Attendees of the show experience the thrill of finding gold in their pan at the club's demonstration troughs. The Club set up about 8 troughs this year stocked with gold and gems. GPOC members provide individualized and group training on gold panning at the troughs on demand – with at least 10 volunteers at the

GPOC booth daily. Further – visitors can keep the gold or gems they find and purchase vials and Pasteur pipettes (suction tweezers) at the GPOC Outfitters Store. GPOC provides a real feel of old time prospecting with metal pans that visitors use in the troughs. These pans are not as embellished as some of the newer, plastic, rifled, even Banjo, pans commonly used by prospectors today. However, they still get the job done.      >>> Page 4



# GPOC Board & Committee Chairs

## GPOC BOARD

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Calvin Johnson  
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Dick Margeson  
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Linda Jent  
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The Gold Prospectors of Colorado (GPOC) was founded around 1974 as a non-profit organization for recreational gold prospectors in the Colorado area.

Our membership at any given time has grown to over 600 members and continues to grow across the Front Range, the nation, and even the world!

## ♠ GPOC Outings & Events Planner ♠

In response to feedback from our members, we are adding a rolling three-month planning calendar to each issue of the Quill. Now you can see and plan for events months in advance—and make requests to the Planning Committee for outings and events in YOUR club!

Also check the next page and the GPOC web site at [www.gpoc.club](http://www.gpoc.club) for more info on events including location and start times.

## OCTOBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5	6 GPOC Board Meeting	7	1
9	10	11	12 GPOC Gen. Member Meet-	13	14	8
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26 GPOC Planning Comm.	27	28	29



## NOVEMBER 2016

### GPOC BOARD & TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 GPOC Board Meeting	4	5
6	7	8	9 GPOC Gen. Member Meeting	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27	28	29	30 GPOC Planning Comm.			



## DECEMBER 2016

### GPOC HOLIDAY PARTY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 GPOC Board Meeting	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 GPOC Holiday Party	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 GPOC Planning Comm.	29	30	31



- **GPOC** Board Meetings are held the 1st Thursday of each month at **7 pm**, Gold Hill Police Station, 955 Moreno Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO, (access from W. Moreno Ave.). GPOC Members only.
- **GPOC** Gen Membership meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at **7 pm**, Elks Lodge, 3400 N. Nevada Ave, Colorado Springs, CO. Public is welcome.
- **GPOC** Planning Committee Meeting. **7 pm** at Denny's on Academy Blvd. & I25, CO Springs.

# My First Outing to Cache Creek, Historic CO Mining District

by

Andrew C Hawkins

I went to Cache Creek for the first time on Saturday 3 September 2016 with a friend, Devin, who had never before been prospecting. I've read countless articles about this locale and the rich, and controversial, history of placer mining at Cache Creek. While many have heard the name, few know the history of this place.

Before I recant the story of our day trip, I want to first share with you some of the history, both geological and mining, of Cache Creek. First, geology. Cache Creek is a small creek near the northern border of Chaffee County

and southern border of Lake County. Cache Creek drains several fourteeners in the Sawatch Range to the west. The creek is within approximately 10 miles of two of the highest peaks in the contiguous United States. To the northwest lies Mount Elbert, the highest of the fourteeners in the Sawatch Range and second highest peak in the contiguous United States. Neighboring Mount Massive is the third highest peak. To the east, lies the Mosquito Range. And smack in the middle is the Arkansas River valley. Cache Creek drains into the Arkansas, just south of the town of Granite.

The United States Geological Survey describes the Cache Creek Placer District as "the largest single placer in Colorado, and produced for nearly 60 years. The district is contiguous with the Lost Canyon placers on the upstream end. According to Parker (1974) and Voynick (1992) gold was first discovered in Cache Creek in 1859. **The Rocky Mountain News** reported the placers there were producing a half ounce of gold per day per man. Early

on, water was supplied by a 16-mile ditch from Lake Creek. Fairly quickly, larger companies consolidated claims and began large-scale mining. In fact, the state's only profitable large hydraulic mine operated on the terraces above Cache Creek. Finally, a lawsuit by the city of Pueblo and other downstream water users curtailed hydraulic mining (and its attendant siltation) in 1910 (Parker, 1974; Voynick, 1992)."

The most prominent mine in the Cache Creek district was the Twin Lakes Hydraulic Gold Mining Syndicate, Ltd. This mine was run by Ben Stanley Revett, arguably one of the most influential men in Colorado mining history in the 1800's. Revett was a Brit—born in India of British parents—and came to the

United States in 1884. He made his way to Colorado, where he quickly became the manager of Twin Lakes, which consolidated many smaller mining claims into the largest placer mining operation in Chaffee county (Piekenbrock and Piekenbrock, 2008).

The Granite area, including the Cache Creek placer, is one of unique...or rather...ubiquitous geology. I was once told it's an area that has no single geological feature, because it has them all. The area is considered the remnants of several glaciers and had both terminal and lateral moraines (piles of glacial rock and till) that have been scoured from the Sawatch and Mosquitos over thousands of years. One of the best geological papers I've seen on this area is entitled "Three Glaciers Flood" (Lee, 2008). Think Noah and a Hollywood disaster movie combined. Needless to say, the Upper Arkansas River Valley was peppered with glaciers in the last couple hundred thousand years. The two periods most

&gt;&gt;&gt; Page 5



*The town of Granite, Colorado, from the Mining and Industrial Reporter, September 1897. (Courtesy of the Denver Public Library, Western History Collection, X-8755.)*

**The Quill wants your feedback! Send us your story ideas, photos, artwork, summary of your prospecting trips, stories, and stuff you want to see published in the Quill. Got a great campsite that you want to share with your fellow GPOC prospectors? Know a nugget of Club history? Found your first nugget? Email us!**

[gpoquilleditor@gmail.com](mailto:gpoquilleditor@gmail.com)

## GPOC @ Denver Gem and Mineral Show, continued

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For lucky visitors that catch “gold fever” and want to keep prospecting after the show, the GPOC also offered pans, sluices, and prospecting clothing at very reasonable prices through the Outfitters Store.

Another popular attraction at the GPOC booth was the rock board game. Volunteers (including me!) introduced visitors to the game, where everyone's a winner (literally). The game asks participants to donate 25 cents by choosing a square from 2 to 12. On each square are placed an assortment



of tumbled and polished rocks from the GPOC collection. Some numbers have one, some have two or three polished rocks. The participant chooses a number of their liking, places the 25 cent donation, and rolls a set of dice. The number rolled is the winning number and the participant collects the rock(s) from that square. If the participant rolls the number on which they have placed their 25 cent piece – they garner an extra treat – a hand-sewn bag of rock specimens for their collection! And they get to take home the rock on that square! The kids love this game – and gather round to watch each other try their luck – and trade polished rocks.



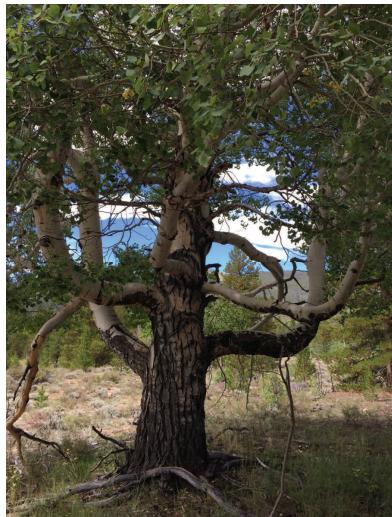
## My First Outing to Cache Creek, continued

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distinct were about 120,000 years ago and about 20,000 years ago. All of this geological activity means that today, as was true 130 years ago, there's a lot of dirt to be dug and gold to be found.

And now onto our trip report. We met up with Dave – former GPOC member and CO State Panning Champion. Dave showed us around Cache Creek area and this cool ~400 year old Aspen tree (by Dave's reckoning). The photo doesn't show it well – but this tree was so big, I could not wrap my arms around it more than half way (and I'm not small). The circumference was probably 15 feet with a diameter of 6 feet. Dave said it was an aspen and thought it was ~400 years old!

Dave also gave us some tips on where to dig. Dave had prospected the area before we got there and selected a spot that looked like sluice tailings



from old workings. Dave showed us pay layers and clay layers in one of his two dig spots.



View of the path from the water source, Cache Creek – where we sluiced, to our dig site which was about 500 yards away. There's a clear path to follow, but it's easy to get turned around. No mechanical or motorized equipment is allowed, including wagons. So we carried the 80 pound buckets by hand. Our dig site was a trench that Dave had made before we got there. It was about 15 feet long and about 5 feet wide. Dave has slowly been reclaiming it as he

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## My First Outing to Cache Creek, continued

>>> Page 5

worked sideways along a pay layer of sand and gravel and LOTS of magnetite. The top photo is of our dig spot and the bottom photo of the find (blow up of first photo). This our reclamation moved all but overhead so We also made Dave had blocked some plywood.

Devin and I classed down to #4 mi-



tense bands of magnetite the orange box in the photo does not show after digging, which re-about an inch of the dirt there was no overhand. the trench safe—as off the trench with

fied 5 x 5 gallon buckets nus. The material was a

little moist, but not wet. We ran 3 buckets through my Keene A52 and then did a cleanup. We could see visible gold in the V rib mat! sec.

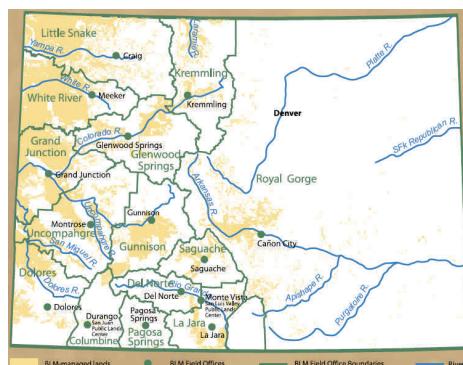
**TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NOVEMBER 2016 ISSUE OF THE QUILL!**



## BLM's Rules for Prospectors & Rockhounds, continued

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- ◆ For petrified wood, a reasonable daily amount is 25 pounds plus one piece that one person can remove, with a maximum amount of 250 pounds removed in one calendar year. Pooling of quotas to obtain pieces heavier than 250 pounds is not allowed.
- ◆ Invertebrate fossils are the remains of animals without skeletal structures such as insects, crabs, clams, and snails. Vertebrate fossils, which include dinosaurs, mammals, sharks, and fish, or any animal with a skeletal structure, cannot be collected without a special collecting permit.
- ◆ Collection and removal cannot be assisted with motorized or mechanized equipment.
- ◆ No undue or unnecessary degradation of the public lands is allowed during the removal of rocks, minerals, gemstones, or fossils.
- ◆ Other rules and restrictions may be in effect in a particular area. Always check with the local BLM Field Office Web site by phone or personal visit.



equipment, dry washers and equipment that uses recycling processes.

### Code of Ethics for Rock, Fossil, and Mineral Collectors

- ◆ Respect both private and public property, and do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
- ◆ Keep informed of all laws, rules, and regulations governing collecting on public lands, and observe them.
- ◆ Use no firearms or blasting materials in collecting areas.
- ◆ Cause no willful damage to property of any kind—fences, buildings, signs, etc.
- ◆ Leave all gates as found.
- ◆ Build fires only in designated or safe places, and make sure fires are completely extinguished before leaving the area. Check local conditions for fire bans that may be in effect.
- ◆ Discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- ◆ Fill all excavation holes that may be dangerous to livestock.
- ◆ Do not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
- ◆ Cause no willful damage to collecting material, and take home only what you can reasonably use.
- ◆ Leave all collecting areas free of litter.
- ◆ Cooperate with those designated in authority in all collecting areas.

For more information, check out the BLM Colorado web site:  
[http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM\\_Programs/recreation/Recreation\\_Activities/rock\\_collecting\\_and.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/recreation/Recreation_Activities/rock_collecting_and.html)



### Rules for gold panning, dredging and sluicing

- ◆ Gold panning and non-mechanized sluicing are unregulated and allowed in most locations on BLM managed lands without a permit.
- ◆ Recreational dredging and sluicing is regulated, and all dredgers operating on BLM-managed lands must contact local field offices and possibly submit a notice or obtain a permit before work begins.
- ◆ Casual use activities are typically limited to battery operated



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# BLM temporarily Closes Point Bar Road

CANON CITY - The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Royal Gorge Field Office is temporarily closing BLM Road 5969, which provides western access to the Point Bar Recreation Area located near Wellsville, Colorado. Heavy rains in summer 2015 and 2016 caused substantial damage to a retaining wall that supports the road.

"Public safety is our number one concern with this road closure," said Royal Gorge Field Office Manager Keith Berger. "We are working with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to explore options for repair and would like to reopen the road as soon as possible." The closure only applies to motorized travel in the area directly affected by the damaged retaining wall. The eastern access route to Point Barr will remain open; however, high clearance vehicles are advised.

Note for GPOC members familiar with the area, the road closed is also known as Fremont County Road 45. This is the road that runs along the north side of the Arkansas River. Specifically, the road immediately west (upstream) of the western portal of the railroad tunnel and immediately west of the Pt. Bar area. Upon checking with the BLM Royal Gorge Field Office, they did not know if the BLM was going to work with Fremont county for barriers or any other notice. This is assumed to be part of the county road repair due to the severe rains of 2015 and the county was waiting for FEMA funding to repair.





More inside!

# The Prospector's Quill Fall Edition

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SEPTEMBER 2016

## BLM's Rules for Prospectors & Rockhounds

By

Andrew C Hawkins with excerpts from BLM

Did you know that as a prospector, you can hunt for rocks and minerals on BLM lands WITHOUT a permit! It's true! However, the BLC of Colorado, our home and most popular state for rockhounding and mineral specimen collecting, has published a helpful pamphlet of rules that we must follow. If you missed the Denver Gem and Mineral Show and garnering your own copy of the BLM Pamphlet, we'll reproduce parts of it here for your convenience.

### THE FOLLOWING IS EXCERPTED FROM BLM BROCHURE:

"Rockhounding & Fossil Collecting BLM COLORADO"

Colorado is a rockhound's and fossil hunter's favorite, and BLM lands within the state are no exception. From the fossil fields in northwestern Colorado to southeastern and south-central portions of the state, each area boasts numerous potential rock and fossil areas with a variety of minerals. Local field offices should be contacted for more specific information.



What is a rockhound? (rok-how-nd) — an amateur collector of various forms of minerals, including gold, silver, turquoise, rubies and garnets, and other precious and semi-precious minerals — also occasionally referred to as gemstones — plus fossils.

### Rules for rockhounding and fossil collecting on BLM Colorado lands

- ◆ Rockhounding is allowed on public lands except for developed recreation sites, special management areas, or where otherwise prohibited and posted. To avoid trespassing, the amateur rockhound or prospector should check with local BLM field offices for locations of existing mining claims.
- ◆ Mineral specimens, precious and semiprecious gemstones, petrified wood, common invertebrate and plant fossils may be collected on public lands without charge or permit in reasonable amounts as long as the specimens are for personal use and not collected for sale or barter to commercial dealers.
- ◆ For rocks (such as decorative rock), a reasonable amount is defined as the maximum amount which one person can fit in a 5-gallon container in one day.

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